

of His Millions?

Lord & Taylor			
New York JAN 2 1918			
MRS T P SHONTS			
PLAZA HOTEL- ROOM 1034			
CITY 1-			
1 SP COTTON 08			
1 SP COTTON 05			
1 BOX HAIR PINS 25			
5 PKG HAIR PINS 03 15			
1 CD PINS 10			



Early photograph of Mrs. Amanda Caskie Thomas when she was on the stage as a chorus girl under the name of "Jeanne Caskie."

guerre Shonts! But it must have been very pleasant for Mrs. Thomas to have unlimited charge accounts and to know that a millionaire admirer would pay everything without question.

Mr. Bizuel President

At that earlier time in her variegated career she was married. She had stuffed her trunks in Paris with dozens of handsome gowns, laces, jewelry, etc., and skipped back to America. And those Paris tradesmen pursued her, hauled her up in court and bothered her a lot.

She was married then, but her husband, Herbert F. Thomas, couldn't keep up with her purchases. How much nicer not to be married, but to have an old millionaire admirer pay the bills and keep out of court!

And while Shonts was cheerfully paying Mrs. Thomas's bills he was fussing and threatening his family about their extravagances. Here is a portion of a letter he wrote his daughter Theodora (the Duchess de Chaulnes):

INTERBOROUGH CONSOLIDATED CORPORATION
165 Broadway, New York EES(S)
Office of the President

August 11, 1915.

Dear Toosie:

What I told you some time ago was that I would no longer support you and Marguerite in your nomadic life; that you must settle down some place outside of the States of New York and Virginia, where the climate would be healthful for Marguerite, where you would have educational advantages for the boy, and where you should have your mother with you. In view of the foregoing your going to Newport and taking a cottage for the season comes about as near complying with the conditions stated



"When Mrs. Thomas wished money she would ask for it at the breakfast table. I heard her many times asking for large amounts of money. Usually Mr. Shonts would write a check for her. Once I heard a conversation at the breakfast table over \$10,000 that Mrs. Thomas wanted that day to pay for something she had purchased. She had the bill at the breakfast table and showed it to him."—From the statement made by Alfred, Mr. Shonts's valet.

In my offer as you usually do comply with any request, suggestion or condition of mine. Your doing so compels me to speak very plainly. You are not in a financial condition to justify your going to such a place, because it takes a great deal more money to live on the scale required at Newport than you can afford.

With much love.

(Signed) T. P. SHONTS.

The same old familiar cry! They must economize; they can't afford to take a cottage in Newport. No. Shonts had Amanda and her bills to pay first. And after she was attended to there wasn't enough left, to do very much for Shonts's wife and daughters.

And the situation was not a pleasant one for Mrs. Shonts. In a letter to Dr. Schoen, a health culturist, who was employed by Mrs. Shonts for a time, Mrs. Shonts wrote this amusing reference to Mrs. Thomas and her extravagances:

Dear Schoen:

I hear the photo-place is closed. I also heard from a friend that the Tom-cat was in at Lucile's buying expensive gowns, etc. My friend saw her there.

Mr. Shonts drove the poor children from the Plaza, and the Duchess had a temperature of 102 degrees, and was so ill when she reached Asheville that she had to go to bed and was not able to get out for a week. He never had a kind heart, but he is getting more cruel and meaner all the while.

Well, with love and my best wishes.

Yours as always,

MILLA D. SHONTS.

And Mrs. Thomas had another source of expense and another ambition that required money to satisfy—her young son, Herbert Thomas.

Perhaps the most efficient and ablest man which Mr. Shonts ever employed in a confidential, personal capacity was Jules Bizuel, who was with the Interborough president for many months while Shonts and Mrs. Thomas were living in the apartment house on the corner of West End avenue and Eighty-third street. Jules Bizuel was a man of exceptional intelligence and a careful observer, and in regard to Mrs. Thomas and the boy Herbert, who was then about ten years old, he says:

"In my reference given me by Mrs. Amanda C. Thomas when I left the employment of Mr. Shonts and herself she made a special note of my fondness for children. Mrs. Thomas said she liked me better than any other employee that she had because I was kind to her boy Herbert.

"The situation between Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Shonts as regards the boy Herbert was a peculiar one. Mrs. Thomas was tremendously ambitious for her boy. She built in her imagination a magnificent future of wealth, position and power for Master Herbert—but the foundation for this air castle rested on the Shonts money and influence.

"In every way that this resourceful woman could think of she tried patiently day after day and month after month to interest Shonts in her son Herbert. I was much interested to observe the very patent methods and transparent schemes of Mrs. Thomas to inspire Shonts's interest in the boy.

"But for some reason it seemed impossible to stir any real affection or real concern for the boy Herbert in the heart or mind of Mr. Shonts. What was so plain to me and to others must, I am sure, have been plain to Shonts—the schemes and artifices of the eager mother to enlist the interest of this powerful man of millions in her child. This may have been one reason why Shonts refused to respond, but I think a more probably reason was because deep down in Mr. Shonts's heart was a real affection for his own grandson, the little Duke de Chaulnes.

"But if Mrs. Thomas was not able to stir any real affection for the boy in Mr. Shonts's feelings, she at least did succeed in getting the money to provide her boy with every luxury which an ambitious mother could desire. I have been in the households of many of the wealthiest and most noble families of France. I have had virtually the complete charge of the menage of such French chateaux as those of the Prince de la Tour Vauvergne and the Comte de Chastrol, the Marquis d'Ornano and the home of the immensely wealthy Monsieur M. la Ramnee, and in all of these households there were children being brought up. I also have had experience in the households of two or three royal families of Europe, where children were being educated. But in none of these did I ever see a boy surrounded with greater luxury, more close attention and more solicitous care than was lavished upon Master Herbert Thomas—and paid for by Mr. Shonts.

"In addition to the tuition which was paid for him at a private school, there were four special tutors engaged to come to the house to give him private attention. His day school was over at 1:30 or 2 o'clock in the afternoon. After that came his instructor in French, then his teacher of mathematics, then his instructor in deportment and other things, and at regular intervals during the week a boxing instructor came to give the boy lessons in boxing and general athletics.

Besides these four private tutors Mrs. Thomas had a companion, Mrs. Yeomans, whose regular daily duty it was to superintend the boy's play hours. Mrs. Yeomans accompanied Herbert at play, and never allowed him to associate with other boys or girls he met on his outings. Herbert was not an altogether robust child, and Mrs. Thomas endeavored to insure his health by having a physician call regularly and examine and watch the boy, prescribing exercises, diets, play, etc., with the idea that approaching illness might thus be foreseen and avoided. Besides this Herbert was also taught horseback riding, and instructors were hired for him and horses provided for this admirable exercise.

"Mrs. Thomas was always very particular about Herbert's clothes, and was especially careful to have him look very neat and well-groomed when Mr. Shonts was around. She constantly talked to Mr. Shonts about the clothes that she was buying for Herbert, and tried to get him interested in them. If Mr. Shonts happened to be in good humor he would sometimes talk about these things, but, as a rule, it seemed to bore him, and he would dismiss the subject by simply saying, 'Do what you think is best, Amanda, don't bother me.'

From these interesting little glimpses of life at the West End avenue apartment house, where Shonts and Amanda and her boy Herbert all lived together, there does not seem to be any evidence of pinching economy. Mr. Shonts's discarded wife and daughters might skimp and pinch along as best they could and comfort themselves with Shonts's pitiful letters that he was skimping



Mrs. Thomas's son Herbert, who has been brought up like the son of a multi-millionaire, with his special tutors, riding masters, and expensive sports and amusements,

and pinching himself. But there was plenty of money for Mrs. Thomas and there was plenty of money for the boy Herbert and his clothes and his tutors and his boxing instructor and his riding master.

It is of great importance to Mrs. Shonts to show the absurdity of Shonts's pretended lack of money and to follow the trail of where her husband's stocks and bonds have disappeared to. What they have already discovered in this direction Mrs. Shonts's attorneys decline to divulge.

As late as 1917, a year and a half before Shonts died, he must have had well over two million dollars, as revealed by his sworn Federal income tax return. And yet when he died his "friends" came forward with a little sheet of paper listing his estate at about half a million. Where has the rest of it gone?

In 1917 Shonts made a Federal income tax return which shows his well-known salary of \$112,000 as president of the Interborough.

But in addition to this Shonts admits an income from his holdings of stocks and bonds of \$111,313.99. At 5 per cent this last item indicates a revenue yielding fortune of more than \$2,100,000.

And that means an income of close to \$5,000 a week!

But for every million of dividend-paying securities there are several thousand dollars' worth that are temporarily not paying. Furthermore, there is included no real estate, furniture or other properties which Shonts is known to have possessed. It would thus appear that Shonts reveals in his 1917 income tax a live, dividend-yielding fortune of well over two millions, and that in addition to these stocks and bonds his property must have reached a total of three to four millions.

How did Shonts dispose of all that property?

Who has got it?

Did Mrs. Amanda Thomas get it away from the sick old dying traction millionaire by "her artifices, immoralities and wiles"?

Was Shonts "vamped" of his millions by the former chorus girl, and, if so, will the courts make "my friend Amanda" give back the Shonts fortune to the widow and daughters?

(To be Continued Next Sunday)